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# Scheduling divides conference

## SCHEDULE from page 7

Arrington hardly moves during the week.

"Swinging at a volleyball is much tougher than the throwing motion a pitcher makes," Pettit said. "Not only do you swing, but you make contact. When you do it as much as Reitsma does, you force things to the point where you don't have players practicing all drills during the week."

### Money matters

Few coaches dispute the physical concerns of Pettit and Corbelli. But many of those concerns take a back seat to an issue of greater significance: money.

In order for a Wednesday-Saturday to work, coaches agree, athletic departments must provide charter flights on Wednesday nights. Commercial flights often depart at inconvenient times and would force athletes to miss Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon classes.

Academic requirements make chartering a must, said Barbara Hibner, Nebraska senior athletic women's administrator.

The Huskers' volleyball-operating expenses in 1996 totaled \$458,053—the largest budget of any Big 12 team. Missouri spent a league-low \$36,187.

"I have empathy with those that would have to dig deep into their pockets to do this," Hibner said. "Some schools don't enjoy a \$30 million-plus

athletic budget."

But the Big 12 is a premier conference, Hibner said, with volleyball deemed one of its premier sports.

"If this were football or basketball," she said, "we would find the money. So why don't we put our money where our mouth is and showcase volleyball?"

### Other benefits

Playing on Wednesday gives athletic departments a perfect opportunity to place volleyball at center stage, Byrne said.

"When we have football and two volleyball matches and soccer and basketball on the same weekend," Byrne said, "it runs the support staff ragged. We get complaints from fans that there isn't enough parking. If we take volleyball out of the mix, it will benefit both the sport and the fans."

Baylor Coach Brian Hosfeld said the level of competition will increase with matches played at midweek. Two- and three-day breaks, Hosfeld said, grant teams ample time to recover from difficult losses and also to prepare for challenging opponents.

If a decision occurred today, Hosfeld said, he thinks the votes to change exist. He won't know for certain until March.

"How is a lower level conference team supposed to do an adequate job preparing for Nebraska and Colorado on the same weekend?" Hosfeld said. "Who do you concentrate on? For us, it's near impossible to think about get-

ting both of those wins. It's too taxing of a weekend on the athletes."

### The process

The Big Ten Conference voted this month to alter its schedules to a Wednesday-Saturday format. Big 12 coaches hope for the Big Ten's lead this spring.

The wheels have already been set in motion.

Byrne said he does not expect a decision until the second week of March at the earliest. Athletic directors and senior women's administrators will hold meetings during the league's postseason basketball tournament in Kansas City, Mo., next March.


Eleven of 12 league schools field volleyball teams. In order to pass, the vote requires a 6-5 majority.

Corbelli said the key lies with the coaches, who must convince the administrators of the proposed format's advantages.

"We have to have an effective lobbying system," Corbelli said, "because there isn't any way to prove the benefits of this until we actually do it."


Pettit agreed. "To make good things happen, you have to operate almost unknowingly," he said. "You have to say, 'OK, we're going to do this, but we'll allow ourselves room to make compromises later.'"

"If we let everything be dictated by the weak link in our conference and not the majority, nothing will ever be accomplished."



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# Swimmers fare well

BY SARAH DOSE  
Staff Reporter

For not being shaved or rested, the Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams performed well at last weekend's Texas Invitational, NU Associate Head Coach Rick Paine said.

Paine said the Cornhusker men and women haven't shaved for a tournament yet, and the teams were unrested.

"We were certainly the best unshaved, unrested team there," Paine said. "Absolutely."

He also said some teams had begun to cut practice time, so their swimmers were rested for the meet.

Christine Troy led four Husker women in the 200-yard backstroke finals with a runner-up finish at 2 minutes, .75 seconds. Lenka Manhalova finished third in the

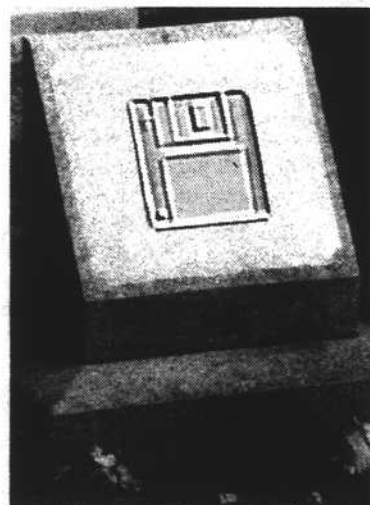
200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:15.99.

The women's 400-yard freestyle relay also finished well, as Anna Windsor, Beth Karaica, Helene Muller and Therese Alshammar were runners-up to Arizona with a time of 3:23.87.

First-year diver Amanda Zins also helped the women with a third-place finish in the 1-meter competition.

Divers Danny Bergman and Bert Locklin highlighted Saturday's action with a one-two finish on the 1-meter board. Bergman scored 536.5 points, and Locklin finished with 498.75. Bergman finished second in the 3-meter diving competition Friday.

NU All-American Adam Pine was the Huskers' top finisher in the men's swimming competition. He also placed second in the 100-yard freestyle in 44.81, an NCAA provisional qualifying mark.



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